

REMARKS

Claims 14-21 are pending in the application. Claims 14-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Feygin (U.S. 5,957,167), and claims 14-16, 18, 20, and 21 stand rejected as being anticipated by Rose (U.S. 6,551,557).

With this response, claim 14 is amended, and claims 22 and 23 are newly added. Support for the amendment and the newly added claims can be found at least at p. 13 of the specification: "The core 431 of pin-lifter 430 is rectangular or oblong. More specifically, the core 431 is long enough to cover an entire row of apertures in the printhead. Whereas pin-lifter 420 lifted only a single pin, pin-lifter 430 is capable of simultaneously lifting an entire row of pins." No new matter is added by amendment. Reconsideration of the claims, in light of the remarks that follow, is respectfully requested.

As previously noted, Feygin discloses actuators that, when activated, either cause single fluid dispensing members to dispense fluid, or cause all fluid dispensing members to dispense fluid. Rose discloses solenoids that, when activated, lift one corresponding pin. In the Advisory Action mailed September 8, 2006, the Examiner maintained his rejection of the claims over Feygin and Rose, arguing that that the original language of claim 14 could be construed to mean that a given pin-lifter could be "associated" with an arbitrary subset of pins. The Examiner provides an example in which a single pin pin-lifter L1 is "associated" with a subset of pins (P1, P2), even if L1 were only capable of lifting pin P1, as in Feygin and Rose.

Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 14 clarifies the structural relationship between a pin lifting mechanism and a subset of pins, and thus addresses the Examiner's concerns. Specifically, claim 14 as amended recites:

a plurality of pin lifting mechanisms, each pin lifting mechanism of the plurality of pin lifting mechanisms associated with a different one of said subsets and configured to lift the pins of the subset together relative to the printhead.

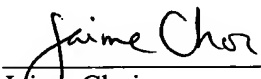
Neither Feygin nor Rose teaches or suggests pin lifting mechanisms that are configured to lift the pins of a subset of two or more pins together. Feygin discloses at most a mechanism that is configured to move either one member or all members, and Rose discloses at most a mechanism that is configured to move one pin.

In summary, applicants submit that neither Feygin nor Rose anticipates claim 14, nor claims dependent thereon. Applicants submit that for similar reasons, newly added claims 22 and 23, which further clarify the structural relationship between a pin lifting mechanism and a subset of pins, are also allowable.

In view of the above amendment, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance, and therefore respectfully request the Examiner to allow the claims to issue. A petition for a one-month extension of time accompanies this response, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for this extension to Deposit Account No. 08-0219. No other fees are believed to be due at this time. However, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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